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STATE FOR ISN/CB, EUR/PRA, EUR/AGS
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/15/2022
TAGS: [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [CBW](#) [GM](#)
SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA GROUP: GERMANY TO PARTICIPATE IN PLENARY
INFO EXCHANGE AND EXPERTS ENFORCEMENT MEETINGS

REF: STATE 58355

Classified By: Global Affairs Counselor Donald R. Shemanski, for reason
s 1.4 (b) and (d).

[¶1.](#) (S) Global Affairs officer passed ref demarche to German
MFA Export Control Division Deputy Chief Markus Klinger May
[¶4.](#) Klinger said the German Government was already
considering presentations to make at the Australia Group (AG)
Information Exchange sessions during the June 4-7 AG Plenary
in Paris. He noted that the German Federal Intelligence
Service (BND) will be part of the German delegation and will
make any presentations concerning Germany's assessment of
Iran's chemical and biological warfare manufacturing
capabilities and/or programs. Klinger said he will convey
the USG interest in Germany's assessment to the appropriate
officials of the German Government.

[¶2.](#) (S) Concerning an assessment of Russia's chemical and
biological weapons programs, Klinger said the German
Government is still studying the issue. He noted that the EU
members in the AG presented a Common Position at the 2006 AG
Plenary in which they said that, although it would be
desirable for Russia to be admitted into the AG, questions
still remained about its export control system.

[¶3.](#) (S) On a separate issue, Klinger mentioned that the
Canadian delegation requested a June 3 meeting of several
like-minded countries, including Germany, in Paris to discuss
a 2006 Canadian proposal to consider the biological warfare
applications of oligonucleotides. Klinger suggested that
this issue be discussed in a breakout meeting between AG
Plenaries. In his view, this issue is too technical for the
AG delegates to discuss a day before the 2007 Plenary.
Furthermore, the German Government has identified only one
expert on this topic, and he will not attend the 2007 Plenary.

[¶4.](#) (U) Post will report any additional German response
concerning the upcoming AG Plenary septel.
TIMKEN JR